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LB 389

Now those are the contents of this amendment, Mr. President, and I would certainly entertain discussion or questions. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. You've heard the opening on AM2104 to the committee amendments to LB 389. Open for discussion, Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Beutler.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd just like to ask Senator Bromm a question or two, please.

SENATOR BROMM: Certainly.

SENATOR DIERKS: Are you on, Senator Bromm?

SENATOR BROMM: I don't know.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: As I looked at the committee statement, Senator Bromm, it appeared that the opposition mostly came from the phone companies. And as I looked at the committee amendments, it looked like you...the committee amendments actually become the bill. And I wondered if you would tell us a little bit about what the opposition was and what the committee amendments do if they change the opposition. Would you go into that a little bit for me, please.

SENATOR BROMM: Certainly. Thank you, Senator Dierks, and that's a very fair question. The bill as it was introduced would have been interpreted to expand the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission to have authority to enforce their rules and regulations and fining power over every provider of mobile radio services, paging services, or wireless telecommunications services. That was pretty far reaching and was interpreted by the industry as bringing state regulation, particularly in the wireless area, into an arena that's already regulated by the federal government. However, after discussing that to some extent with the opponents, it seemed the reasonable thing to do was to provide for regulation if and when these